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Ganong's Plant Physiology.¹—Notwithstanding the recognized importance of plant physiology as a source of illuminating information on the conduct of living things, as well as a valuable means of discipline, the very scanty assortment of English texts available for classes taking up this study has been a source of inconvenience to many teachers. Laboratory manuals and concise, up-to-date treatises on the subject have both been conspicuously lacking.

Fortunately, several additions to our texts on this subject have recently been made; among these *A Laboratory Course in Plant Physiology*, by Prof. W. F. Ganong of Smith College (New York, Henry Holt & Co., 1901), outlines a series of experiments covering a school year in which eight hours are given weekly for laboratory work. Dr. Ganong has chosen experiments for their teaching value, making use of those, so far as possible, which require simple apparatus, purchasable at small expense. Inspection of the figures and descriptions given discovers much ingenuity in this selection. Since Dr. Ganong believes that in elementary courses "it is mainly qualitative results that are of value," although "the exact quantitative methods and spirit are scientifically and educationally the best," the correct use of simple apparatus is emphasized. Comment upon the experiments is chiefly by the way of suggesting to the student lines of thought and reading. When experiment is out of the question proportion is secured by references for outside reading. Much use of synoptical essays is recommended.

The suggestions are, in most cases, stimulating and within the range of the possible. When, however, the student is directed to form a clear mental picture of the molecular processes and energy involved in osmosis, one cannot refrain from asking whether the picture is to be that in the mind of Graham or that in the mind of van't Hoff. When physicists are still divided on the subject the undergraduate deceives himself who fancies that he has the data necessary for the formation of a clear mental picture.

The book is clearly the result of careful work and ample experience. It cannot but be of the greatest assistance to the teachers of plant physiology, and it deserves to be most cordially received.

R. H. T.

Notes.—Part I of a botany of the Faeröes, based upon Danish investigations, has been published, by aid of the Carlsberg fund, by

¹Ganong, W. F. *A Laboratory Course in Plant Physiology, especially as a Basis of Ecology*. New York, Henry Holt & Co., 1901. 8vo, vi-146 pp., 35 figs.